

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Official Action dated August 24, 2007. Claims 1-8 were pending in the application. In the Official Action, claims 1-5 were rejected, and claims 6-8 were objected to. In this Amendment, claims 1-8 have been canceled, and new claims 9-16 have been added. Claims 9-16 thus remain for consideration. A petition for a three-month extension of the term for response to said Official Action, to and including February 25, 2008, is transmitted herewith.

Applicant submits that claims 9-16 are in condition for allowance and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Claim Objections

Claims 6-8 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 (c) as being in improper form.

Claims 6-8 have been canceled, thereby rendering the objections to those claims moot.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, and all claims depending therefrom were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 3, and all claims depending therefrom have been canceled, thereby rendering their rejections moot.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,289,646 to Watanabe ("Watanabe").

Claims 1-5 have been canceled, thereby rendering their rejections moot.

New Claims

Applicant respectfully submits that new independent claim 9, and claims 10-16 that are dependent thereon, are patentable over *Watanabe*.

Applicant's invention as recited in independent claim 9 is directed toward a glazing system for buildings. Claim 9 recites "at least one retaining element attached to said distance element and including a groove for engagement with a portion of a side edge of a portion of said façade." Attachment of the retaining element to the side of a façade prevents significant movement thereof toward or away from the building and maintains the fixed position of the façade in relation to the building. Moreover, such a configuration enables the support elements merely to support the weight of the façade without performing a retaining function, thereby assisting with the safe and efficient mounting of the façade from inside the building.

Applicant submits that *Watanabe* does not disclose a retaining element that attaches to a side edge of a façade as claimed in claim 9. Instead, *Watanabe* discloses a metal fixture for installing siding where the metal fixture grips the siding from above with an upper metal fitting and from below with a lower metal fitting. See *Watanabe*, col.1 l.63 - col.2 l.4.

Dependent claims 10-16 depend on independent claim 9. Since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, claims 10-16 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with claim 9.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such

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action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: February 25, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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